LEPROSY IN FIVE YOUNG MEN—George J. Hill, II, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver; formerly Clinical Associate, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. Colorado Associated University Press, 1424 15th Street, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado (80302), 1971. 204 pages, $8.00.

This book is the result of an ambitious project initiated in 1962 by the National Institutes of Health, "to study the natural history of leprosy". Five male, Mexican nationalists from different parts of Mexico were brought to the United States for these studies. Four suffered from lepromatous leprosy and one from dimorphus leprosy. The entire admission consisted of two study periods—Study Period 1, for observation and medical tests, which lasted for two to three months, and Study Period II, lasting from three to seven months, during which period therapy was given.

The contents are arranged in three main parts, namely, case summaries, a discussion of the findings, and tables. The patients were given the most thorough clinical and extensive laboratory examination possibly ever carried out anywhere. Forty-one associate investigators are listed. The case summaries contain clinical photographs, occasionally including family members, and depicting living conditions, as an interesting sidelight.

The numerous photomicrographs vary greatly in quality. To demonstrate M. leprae in black and white is always disappointing.

The discussion of the abnormalities covers seven major areas of research; namely, skin and neuromuscular, bacteriology and pathology, immunology, ophthalmology, hematology, gastro-intestinal and adrenal-genito-urinary. The presence of lepra bacilli in practically all organs examined, including prostate and jejunum is stressed. One organ not mentioned where lepra bacilli have been demonstrated, is the tooth.

The fifteen tables contain, in concentrated form, the results of the investigation. Covered are, among others: abnormalities of the skin, neuromuscular abnormalities, mean density of the acid fast bacilli in hundreds of specimen, the results of 10 different skin tests, the results of 19 serological tests, serum proteins, hemological abnormalities, gastro-intestinal and hepatic functions, abnormalities in renal function, urinary cortico-steroid excretion, plasma cortico-steroid values, reproductive function, and innumerable additional laboratory studies.

The author was, at the time of these studies (1962-63), Clinical Associate at the National Institutes of Health, but stresses that the book is not an official publication of the U.S. Public Health Service. Apparently, no official publication from the National Institutes of Health about these studies has appeared. One of the reasons might be that although it contains a wealth of material, no new findings were presented.

The author does not explain how the length of Study Period I, during which specific therapy was withheld, was justified, even if the patients volunteered.

PAUL FASAL, M.D.

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CECIL-LOEB TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE—Thirteenth Edition—Edited by Paul B. Beeson, M.D., Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford; and Walsh McDermott, M.D., Livingston Farrand Professor of Public Health, Cornell University Medical College, with 1969 Contributors. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105) 1971. 1974 pages, 198 illustrations: Single Volume, $26.00, two-volume set $30.00.

The number of pages of this encyclopedic Textbook of Medicine has grown to 1923 exclusive of the index. In addition to two editors it has five associate editors as well as a total of 170 contributors of articles. Along with its growth numerically it has its usual good up-to-date coverage of diseases, their etiology, pathology, pathophysiology, diagnosis and therapy.

The book will probably be of most use to students and recent medical graduates. It is laid out for them as well as a one-volume encyclopedic reference can be. However, since the half life of medical information is probably less than seven years, many doctors of medicine whose entire scientific training took place before 1950 will find some sections difficult reading. The details of molecular biology can be rough going when authors assume that their readers are conversant with all the elementary principles involved. Incidentally, abbreviations should not be used in any section unless the meaning is written out in full previously in that section.

The last (or 12th edition) featured the introduction of two companion volumes on Roentgenologic Diagnosis as well as the renewal and expansion of the textbook proper. The present edition likewise contain much new material. One major section on "Respiratory Disease" is wholly new. However, the reviewer was unable to find normal values for blood gases, lung volume, mechanics of breathing or blood-gas distribution either in this section or in the tables of Normal Laboratory Values of Clinical Importance at the back of the book. The section on "Granulomatous Disease of Unproved Etiology" has been beefed up by the addition of several syndromes formerly classified under Diseases of Connective Tissue because of what one of the editors terms "the present state of ignorance" regarding their etiology. One of these, Polymyalgia Rheumatica, until recently only reluctantly classified as a disease, has been given three times the space it had in the last edition (while the putatively related Cranial Arteritis received only half the write-up it had before).

In this edition the editors demonstrate that they are aware of what is going on in the world around and beyond the individual patient. Dr. McDermott introduces the book with an essay on Medicine in Modern Society suggesting that the coincidence of massive scientific innovation and wide social change has created problems not solvable by good scientific personal medical practice alone. He offers no solutions except that we not avoid the emerging problem.

The reviewer was impressed by the reorganized and expanded section on Environmental Factors in Disease (increased from 22 to 60 pages and transferred from the back to the front of the book) and particularly by the encompassing introduction on Man in His Environment by Harold E. Lewis. This cogent article points out that a large part of the practice of medicine is devoted to treating human disorders which are expressions of inadequate or inappropriate responses to environmental influences. We need to know much more about man's environment as he faces the reality of daily life, and we need to know what effect our activities have on our environment.

Environmental knowledge has never been considered as a feature of medical education. The physician and the ecologist are both devoted to the welfare of a species but the former's primary concern has been for the individual while the latter deals with populations. Their differing philosophies may be noted in the assessment of a pesticide. The medical man is prepared to accept the results of acute or chronic toxicity tests and will be particularly concerned when individuals receive fatal doses. The ecologist is more anxious to assess the situation in terms of the biosphere.

Lewis suggests there is a feeling of helplessness against the demands of the technologic system which man has created but neither understands or effectively controls. The problem is not that of nature threatened by man, but